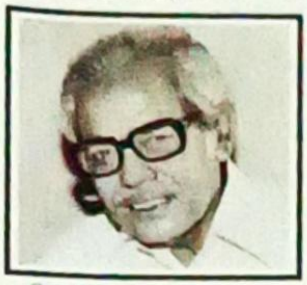
FAREWELL FRIENDS!

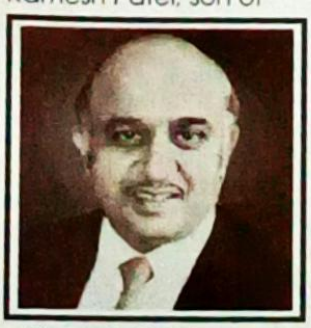
It was a month of tragedies. Six stalwarts passed away. Art director Sudhendu Roy, 78, began his career with Bimal Roy



– Sudhendu Roy.

(**Madhumati**, **Bandini** and **Sujata**) and later with Yash Chopra (**Kala Patthar**, **Lamhe** and **Darr**). He died in his sleep. Revered for his cinematographic eye, his sketches were said to be photographic in indicating light and shadow. An inspiration for many young art directors, including his daughter Sharmishtha Roy, he was the winner of many prestigious awards. Roy believed that a set should be unoppressive and camera-friendly. He ventured into direction with the Nutan-Amitabh Bachchan starrer **Saudagar** and the immortal **Uphaar**, India's official entry to the Oscars.

Ramesh Patel, son of



– Ramesh Patel.

Ambalal Patel, founder of Film Center died of a bypass surgery at Bombay Hospital. The brain behind the country's premier colour laboratory, he brought life into films after the success of **Junglee**. The one to introduce Fuji Colour, Patel also set up Music India (which later became Polygram India Limited) of which he was the director.

Film & TV star, Mohan Gokhale, 46, passed

– Mohan Gokhale.

away after a massive heart attack during his shooting at Chennai for Kamal Haasan's latest film **Hey Ram**. Gokhale endeared himself to viewers with his portrayal of a foreign-returned Indian searching for a bride in **Mr. Yogi**. After graduating from Fergusson College, Pune, Gokhale plunged into theatre and was an active member of the Theatre Academy, Pune. His first acclaimed role was in the Marathi play **Mahanirvan**. He was also part of **Ghashiram Kotwal**, one of the most celebrated plays of his time. A prodigy of the well-known director Dr. Jabbar Patel, Gokhale played the role of Mahatma Gandhi in Patel's film on Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. In 1979, Gokhale made his debut in Hindi films with Sai Paranjape's **Sparsh**. He acted in Ketan Mehta's **Mirch Masala** '85 and later in **Bhavni Bhaval** '80. He was currently starring in teleserials **Aashirwad**, **Alpaviram** and **Zanjeerein**.

The doyen of Hindi films Kidar Sharma, 90,

– Kidar Sharma.

passed away at the Hinduja Hospital after a brief illness. Sharma is credited to have discovered yesteryear stars like Raj Kapoor, Madhubala, Geeta Bali, Bharat Bhushan and Mala Sinha. His innumerable films include **Devdas**, **Chitralekha**, **Jogan**, **Fariyad**, **Zindagi** and **Mumtaz Mahal**.

Film-maker O.P. Ralhan, 71, died of a heart attack at his residence. Starting his

– O. P. Ralhan.

career as an assistant director, Ralhan worked with B.R. Chopra, Kidar Sharma and I.S. Johar. He made his first film with Shammi Kapoor in a double role. **Mujrim**. **Gehra Daag** was his first home production, followed by **Phool Aur Pathar**, **Talaash** and **Bandhe Haath**.

And finally, veteran film-maker Nanabhai Bhatt, 87, father of Mahesh and Mukesh Bhatt, recently in the news over a controversy with his son Mahesh claiming that **Zakhm** was inspired from his personal life and Nanabhai denying it, left for his heavenly abode. The film-maker was unwell for a long time and passed away after putting up a brave

– Nanabhai Bhatt.

fight at Nanavati Hospital. Grandfather to Pooja Bhatt, he began his career very young as a sound recordist in the early '30s, turning director and later producer. Best remembered for adventure films like **Mr. X**, **Sindbad The Sailor**, **Zimbo Comes To Town**, **Veer Ghatotagach**, **Meerabai**, **Rocket Girl** and **Kangan**. Nanabhai suffered a lean phase and though he dreamt of making a comeback, like a million success stories, it never happened!